

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4303

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5172

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS ET US

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN REACTION TO U.S. PRESENTATION ON
ERITREAN ISSUE

REF: STATE 100048

1. WE CONCUR IN THE PROPOSED MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ASSAD WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FIRST SENTENCE IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL. STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THAT PARA WERE MADE AT SAME TIME AS STATEMENTS COVERED IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL, AND WE WOULD THEREFORE PREFER SUBSTITUTION OF "ALSO" FOR "SUBSEQUENTLY."

2. MORE IMPORTANTLY, TEFERI BANTE DID NOT INDICATE CLEARLY WHETHER THE CONTACTS WITH THE REBELS TO WHICH HE REFERRED HAD BEEN MADE DIRECTLY BY THE PMG OR INDIRECTLY, E.G., THROUGH THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 OF REFTEL BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"PMG HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT, IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED CONTACT BETWEEN THE SUDANESE AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTS, CONTACTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE INSURGENTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF THEIR VIEWS. HOWEVER, THERE IS AN IMPORTANT DIFFICULTY IN ASCERTAINING WHICH INDIVIDUALS AMONG THEM CAN REALLY SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY."

HUMMEL

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